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(54) FOOD RAW MATERIAL COMPOSED OF
DECOMPOSED CHITIN

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a food raw material useful as a sweetener, etc., and containing a decomposed chitin containing N-acetylglucosamine and/or chito-oligosaccharide produced by treating chitin with a chitinase.

CONSTITUTION: A chitinase-producing microbial strain belonging to *Streptomyces* genus such as *Streptomyces* sp. KE-406 (FERID P-8642) is cultured under aerobic condition to obtain a chitinase. A chitin-containing raw material such as crab, shrimp, krill, etc., is treated with said chitinase to obtain a decomposed chitin containing N-acetylglucosamine and/or chito-oligosaccharide. The product is used as a sweetener or other food raw material.

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